

Lawrence-Douglas County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Policy Board Meeting Minutes- Thursday, December 14, 2017

Attendance:

Organization	Name	Present
Voting Members		
Lawrence City Commission	Lisa Larsen	X
Lawrence City Commission	Matthew Herbert	X
Douglas County Commission	Michelle Derusseau	X
L-DC Metropolitan Planning Commission	Eric Struckhoff	X
L-DC Metropolitan Planning Commission	Bryan Culver	X
City of Baldwin City	Christi Darnell	
Kansas Department of Transportation	Cory Davis	X
Non-Voting Members		
Federal Highway Administration	Paul Foundoukis	
Federal Transit Administration	Daniel Nguyen	
University of Kansas	Jeff Severin	
City of Lecompton	Jimmy Wilkins	
City of Eudora	Tim Reazin	
Staff		
Lawrence - Douglas County MPO	Jessica Mortinger, AICP	X
Lawrence - Douglas County MPO	Ashley Myers, AICP	X
Lawrence-Douglas County Planning & Development Services Dept.	Scott McCullough, AICP	
Others		
Kansas Department of Transportation	Allison Smith	X

1. Call Meeting to Order and Introductions

Cory Davis called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm

2. Action Item: Approval of Minutes from November 16, 2017

Cory Davis presented the minutes and asked if there was any discussion. There was none. Lisa Larsen motioned to approve minutes, Matthew Herbert seconded, and passed unanimously, 6-0.

3. Discussion Item: Old Business and Correspondence

Jessica Mortinger presented the old business, correspondence, TAC minutes and asked MPO members if they had any questions. There were none.

Project Update Memo

a. Bus Transfer Location Analysis

Jessica Mortinger said five potential sites were brought before the public on November 29. The study team will narrow the sites down to two based on public input. Bryan Culver asked what the development process for the sites will look like. Ms. Mortinger said there are different processes depending on the site. If the site is on a street then there are site planning implications, if it is city owned, or public-private, or state property then there are legislative processes, and there are also KU endowment properties, which have special considerations. She said that this study was high-level conceptual work and the next step would need community meetings and design considerations.

There would also need to be a traffic impact study conducted. Matthew Herbert asked if some of the work from the past site selection study can be used. Ms. Mortinger said yes, some sites have traffic impact work already completed, but the 21st St & Stewart Ave site has moved closer to the Fire Station, so the traffic impact study may need to be redone. She also said that the public values need match the vision of the transit center.

b. Ozone Designation Update

Bryan Culver asked when the target for the ozone designation update would happen. Corey Davis said that it is a somewhat ongoing target was recently designated but is continually moving.

c. Lawrence Loop Alignment Study

Eric Struckhoff asked what the response to the Lawrence Loop study was from BNSF. Jessica Mortinger said that BNSF did not support the alignments as proposed on the railway, but they don't make formal comments without designs, which is outside of the scope of this study.

4. Action Item: Approve the FFY2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment 3

Ashley Myers presented the project changes as part of the TIP amendment 3. The document was posted for public comment from November 9th thru 24th and no public comments were received. Eric Struckoff asked if the 23rd Street project to widen right-of-way was design ready. Lisa Larsen said no. Jessica Mortinger said that an RFP for design went to Transportation Commission recently. Matt Struckoff motioned to approve; seconded by Lisa Larsen and passed unanimously, 6-0.

5. Action Item: Consider a letter of support for Topeka Transit

Jessica Mortinger shared Topeka Metro Transit is considering applying to KDOT for competitive Commuter Discretionary Program funding to operate commuter bus service along I-70 between Topeka and Lawrence. KDOT's grant program covers capital acquisition and 1 year of operation and requires a 20% local match. Topeka Metro Transit met with Lawrence Transit to discuss opportunities to coordinate, connect proposed routes and bus stop amenities. Topeka Metro Transit has not yet made a final decision on whether to apply for the grant funding; there have been concerns from the Topeka Metro Transit Board and others of the ability to fund a service past the 1 year of operating that the grant covers. The plan for commuter service on I-70 are supported by the KDOT I-70 Corridor Transit Feasibility Study and Transportation 2040. At this time, there aren't any local Lawrence/Douglas County funds available for service operations.

Lisa Larsen asked if this was Topeka's idea. Jessica Mortinger said it was generated by KDOT and Topeka as an opportunity to receive funding for vehicles and operating. This would be the next step of the I-70 Corridor Transit study. Corey Davis said in 2012 KDOT with Topeka, Lawrence-Douglas County, and MARC met for a work-study to see if a route sounded feasible. Matthew Herbert asked if Topeka is asking funding for this route. Ms. Mortinger said that was part of the discussion with Bob Nugent. But there is no local funding available from Lawrence. There are other opportunities to coordinate services between Lawrence and Topeka. Eric Struckoff asked if KU has been part of the discussion. Ms. Mortinger said that KU had a role in the discussion, but the preliminary route is not recommended to run to KU. This would be more of an express service that stops at the edge of town. Lisa Larsen motioned for approval; seconded by Eric Struckoff and passes unanimously, 5-0 with Corey Davis abstaining.

6. Other Business

Jessica Mortinger discussed that the membership was continuing into the next year and we do not do annual appointments. If there was someone who did not want to be on the board

this next year, they need to talk to the MPO Staff. Matthew Herbert mentioned there has been a discussion about having commissioners on boards. Jessica Mortinger said the MPO Policy Board is a governing body, thus it is necessary to have commissioners on it. Officers will be elected in January.

7. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:34 pm. The MPO Policy Board will meet next for its regularly scheduled meeting on January 18, 2018 or another date set by the MPO if needed.